

October 22, 2024

Regular meeting of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Victory Gardens held on October 22, 2024.

Mayor Holeman called the meeting to order and declared a quorum present.

Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of Our Country.  
Please remain standing for a moment of silence for our military.

This meeting has been advertised in one newspaper, The Daily Record, in compliance with the New Jersey Open Public Meeting Act.

ATTENDANCE: Councilman Suarez, Councilman Glass, Councilwoman Hedgepath, Councilman Hale, Councilman Lorenzo, Councilwoman Garcia Montes.

ABSENT: Attorney Feintuch.

Motion to accept the minutes of 10/8/24 as received by Councilwoman Montes, seconded by Councilman Lorenzo and approved on verbal vote. None opposed.

Motion to accept the minutes of 10/15/24 Board of Health minutes by Councilman Glass, seconded by Councilman Hale and approved on verbal vote. None opposed. Councilman Suarez abstained as he wasn't present at the meeting.

CORRESPONDENCE: None

VOUCHERS:

The Mayor asked if there were any questions or comments on the vouchers? Hearing none he asked for a motion to pay the bills.

Motion to approve the vouchers for payment by Councilwoman Montes, seconded by Councilman Glass and approved on roll call:

Councilman Suarez	Yes
Councilman Glass	Yes
Councilwoman Hedgepath	Yes
Councilman Hale	Yes
Councilman Lorenzo	Yes
Councilwoman Garcia Montes	Yes

**Voucher Reports**  
Mayor and Board Council Meeting  
October 22,2024

Voucher #	Payable to:	Type of Service	Amount	Check #
10-18	Gannett Newspaper	Clerk OE	\$ 88.14	
10-19	Home Depot Inc	Streets and Roads	\$ 325.01	
10-20	JCPL Borough Hall	Utilities	\$ 306.98	
10-21	JCPL Firehouse	Fire OE	\$ 233.18	
10-22	Konica Minolta Business	Clerk OE	\$ 73.51	
10-23	Morris County MUA	Road OE	\$ 218.25	
10-24	Optimum Internet services	Utilities	\$ 232.45	
10-25	Postmaster General	Clerk OE	\$ 730.00	
10-26	R & L Data	Clerk OE	\$ 280.00	
10-27	Verizon Firehouse	Utilities	\$ 423.06	
10-28	Viking Pest Control	Buildings and Grounds	\$ 157.46	
10-29	Hector Lorenzo	Streets and Roads SW	\$ 3,090.88	
10-30	Leticia Diaz	Clerk SW	\$ 2,121.60	
10-31	Manuel Venereo	Streets and Roads Sw	\$ 2,652.00	
		<b>TOTAL VOUCHERS</b>	<b>\$ 10,932.52</b>	

DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

BUILDING DEPARTMENT - No permits were issued for this time period.

PROPERTY MAINTENANCE - Everyone has a copy of the report.

MUNICIPAL COURT - We received \$770.52 from the court.

REGISTRAR - 2 marriage licenses issued. Total collected: \$56.00

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Councilman Glass - The Mayor asked me to walk through the Borough and check the sidewalks in town to see which ones needed to be repaired. The sidewalks are in pretty good shape. There is one that is cracked but it isn't worth getting someone in here right now. The ones I thought were no good, have been repaired already.

We also auctioned off the paint sprayer. There was 1 bid for it. The amount paid was \$301.00. The paint sprayer was picked up by the bidder.

Councilwoman Garcia Montes - When Letty does the fliers please have her go over them and read them. The party is from 6 to 8 p.m. which was correct on the flier. It says 5 p.m. sharp the costumes will be judged. Please change it on the website and also put it on a flier to the residents.

Motion to accept and put on file all reports by Councilwoman Montes, seconded by Councilman Glass and approved on verbal vote. None opposed.

NEW BUSINESS:

RECYCLING RESOLUTION -

**RESOLUTION FIXING SIZE AND WEIGHT OF RECYCLE RECEPTACLES**

**WHEREAS**, it has come to the attention of the governing body that there is a need to codify the requirements of recycle containers and the maximum weight of each container, and

**WHEREAS**, the governing body intends to fix those requirements;

**NOW THEREFORE** be it resolved that recycle containers shall have a capacity of not more than 32 gallons, and shall not weigh more than 30 pounds, total of container plus contents and it is further resolved in the event the employee of the Borough determines, using their experience, that the weight of the receptacle is greater than 30 pounds or has a capacity greater than 32 gallons they are not obligated to pick said container up.

  
DAVID HOLEMAN, Mayor

I, Deborah Evans, Clerk of the Borough of Victory Gardens, do hereby certify that this is a true and exact copy of a Resolution passed at a meeting of the Mayor and Council, which meeting was held on Tuesday, 10/22/24

  
DEBORAH EVANS, Borough Clerk

NEW BUSINESS CONTINUED:

RECYCLING RESOLUTION CONTINUED - Motion to approve and adopt the Resolution by Councilman Glass, seconded by Councilwoman Montes and approved on roll call:

Councilman Suarez	Yes
Councilman Glass	Yes
Councilwoman Hedgepath	Yes
Councilman Hale	Yes
Councilman Lorenzo	Yes
Councilwoman Garcia Montes	Yes

AWARD OF TREE BID - We received bids to remove 1 tree on the corner of Washington & Jefferson. The bids are as follows:

Scotty Tree Experts	\$3,100.00
T.M. Landscaping, LLC	\$3,595.00
Tree King	\$5,200.00

Motion was made by Councilwoman Montes to accept the bid by Scotty Tree Experts in the amount of \$3,100.00. Seconded by Councilwoman Hedgepath and approved on roll call:

Councilman Suarez	Yes
Councilman Glass	Yes
Councilwoman Hedgepath	Yes
Councilman Hale	Yes
Councilman Lorenzo	Yes
Councilwoman Garcia Montes	Yes

AWARD STORM INLET REPAIR QUOTE - We received 3 quotes for this job. It was to repair 4 storm inlets. 48 Washington Avenue, 123 Washington Avenue, 420 Washington Avenue and 5 Roosevelt Avenue. The quotes are as follows:

AJM CONTRACTING, INC	\$16,000.00
D&L PAVING CONTRACTORS	\$19,000.00
YOUR WAY CONSTRUCTION, INC	\$46,000.00

Leon said these are high. Councilman Glass said that 48 Washington Avenue will be covered when we do the rest of Washington Avenue. So that one should be removed. Also, Councilman Glass said that there were 4 drains on Roosevelt that had to be done when we were going to do the project on Roosevelt. So those should be included in this proposal. I will talk to Leon and tell him to include the drains on Roosevelt also.

We will table this for now and have Leon rebid.

APPROVAL FOR MAYOR AND CLERK TO SIGN CONTRACTS FOR WASHINGTON AVENUE - This has already been approved by the governing body. we just need the approval for the Mayor and Myself to sign the contracts.

Motion was made for the Mayor and Clerk to sign the contract for Washington Avenue Improvements. Motion made by Councilwoman Montes, seconded by Councilman Glass and approved on roll call:

Councilman Suarez	Yes
Councilman Glass	Yes
Councilwoman Hedgepath	Yes
Councilman Hale	Yes
Councilman Lorenzo	Yes
Councilwoman Garcia Montes	Yes

QUOTES FOR A LIFT FOR THE TRUCK FOR RECYCLING - At one of our meetings, Councilman Glass said that he was asked to get quotes on a lift for the truck in order to pick up recycling containers. I contacted 3 companies and the quotes are as follows:

Creston Hydraulics	\$5,875.00
Tony Sanchez Ltd.	\$6,709.00
Truck Body East	\$6,300.00

Councilman Glass said he spoke with Jason and he said everything was within the bid threshold so we can get it if we approve it.

NEW BUSINESS: CONTINUED - QUOTES FOR LIFT FOR TRUCK FOR RECYCLING -

Councilwoman Montes thanked Councilman Glass for getting the quotes but she thinks with the update to the recycling and the weight limits that we don't need to get the lift.

Councilman Glas said that one good thing with the lift is that they can put the snowblower on it and take it to the firehouse to clean the area up there. Right now they use the bucket loader.

Motion was made to not get the lift for the truck. Motion made by Councilwoman Montes, seconded by Councilman Suarez and approved on roll call:

Councilman Suarez	Yes
Councilman Glass	Yes
Councilwoman Hedgepath	Yes
Councilman Hale	Yes
Councilman Lorenzo	Abstain
Councilwoman Garcia Montes	Yes

OLD BUSINESS: NONE

Motion to open the meeting to the public by Councilwoman Montes, seconded by Councilman Glass and approved on verbal vote. None opposed.

Jim Janone - I bought the paint sprayer. I did a cleaning and replaced a ball bearing and it works great. Lack of maintenance on it was all that was wrong. When are we going to do something about the leaf machine? this is the time to get rid of it if that is what you are going to do. You could sell it now and recoup most of the money you paid for it. Does anyone know how many hours are on the machine? No. We have the hoops and we should add that to the auction list. How much were the hoops when we bought them? Councilman Glass said he thought they were \$600.00 . Apartments are not exempt from recycling. We know that. You were going to check with Bill Isselin to see about our apartments and if they are doing recycling. At the mall there is a tractor trailer that parks over there. It isn't there all the time but it is parking there. It is there quite often but not every day. Councilman Lorenzo said sometimes it could be a month and he won't see it and then other times it is pretty regular. The manhole is still on an angle. I did tell Leon about it and when he comes in he will check it. Vouchers # 10-24 and 10-27 optimum internet, why are we paying \$232.45 per month? Verizon firehouse is \$423.06 . I thought we got rid of the phone lines. We did. There is no phone up there. Letty talked to them and she said she talked to you about this. The resolution you did for recycling, I think it should have been an ordinance. Don't you have a current recycling ordinance? Yes but the Attorney said we can do this by the resolution.

Councilwoman Montes said that when she went up to decorate the firehouse the door was left open. The firemen need to be told to lock up.

Pedro Soto - I put in an application for zoning. I have a shed, but I want to get rid of that one and put a new one up. If I put in a new shed it will look much better than what is there. It would be newer and more modern but it will be 3 feet longer than what I currently have. I put this application in a month ago and just got this letter yesterday from the zoning officer. There is a note that says we need to discuss about the foundation. The Clerk said you still need a zoning permit for a shed and because of impervious coverage. You have to get approval from the zoning officer. It is a big shed. The Clerk will call Kevin and tell him to call Mr. Soto. The maintenance of my property, I am trying to get this done. I keep paying fines. I am being harrassed. We went to court in September and I had to pay a fine. My lawyer and the Prosecutor spoke and I was to get another \$500 dollar fine. I was out there everyday doing work. I had a note from my doctor that I couldn't lift more than 10 pounds. Your maintenance man was on someone else's property taking pictures of my property. I was right there. He could have come over and talked to me but he didn't. I worked with his brother on the construction and with Phil and we worked together and got it done.

The Clerk said we were all in court. The Judge said that if you need more time to get the work then you have to get in touch with Ron and speak to him about it. You are to speak to him before the end of October. I for one, do not want to go through this all over again. You shouldn't be getting another fine. Unless of course, you don't do what you were told to do by getting in touch with Ron before the end of the month. You should be calling him now.

Pedro Soto Continued - Councilman Glass said he needs to speak with Kevin. Do that first. How long will it take you to get the property cleaned up? I don't know. I have to get approval on the container first. What are you putting in there? Certain size sheds need a foundation. The Clerk will reach out to Kevin and have him call Pete. Your issue with Kevin and the shed is one thing. You have to speak to Ron. Do it right away.

Motion to close the meeting to the public by Councilwoman Montes, seconded by Councilman Glass and approved on verbal vote. None opposed.

Motion to adjourn the meeting by Councilwoman Montes, seconded by Councilman Suarez and approved on verbal vote. None opposed.

Submitted By:



Deborah Evans  
Borough Clerk

